



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

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HOW MUCH DOES METH REALLY COST? ***County Releases Cost Analysis and New Meth Report Card***

WHAT: Are more people dying due to meth? Has there been an increase or decrease in meth treatment admissions, emergency room visits, and arrests? What is the real cost of meth to the region?

County officials and other experts will answer these and many more questions at the release of the new Methamphetamine Report Card and a study which documents the cost of meth to taxpayers.

WHO: **Supervisor Dianne Jacob**, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
Nick Macchione, Director, County Health and Human Services Agency
Raymond A. Fernandez, Director, County's Public Safety Group
Tom Manning, Deputy District Attorney
Cynthia Burke, Ph.D., Division Director, SANDAG
Christina Manis, former meth user

WHEN: **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.**

WHERE: **COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER—NORTH ENTRANCE**
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY

WHY: According to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, about 12.6 million Americans age 12 or older reported using methamphetamine at least once during their lifetimes.

The California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs reports that methamphetamine is the number one drug of choice among people entering state-funded treatment programs and has surpassed alcohol and heroin abuse.

Meth is a highly addictive stimulant that dramatically affects the central nervous system and has a high potential for abuse. Tolerance develops rapidly, often leading to addiction in a short time. Meth causes hallucinations, paranoia, stroke, liver or heart failure, and death.

In 1996, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of a multi-disciplinary Methamphetamine Strike Force to combat the growing meth problem in the region. The Meth Strike Force is composed of approximately 70 local, state and federal organizations and agencies.

People who suspect drug activity is taking place in their community or are suffering from a meth addiction, are encouraged to call the Meth Hotline at 1-877-no2meth (662-6384). Meth crime can also be reported online at www.no2meth.org. The calls and reports are completely confidential.

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